

Middlebury

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

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Friends of International Students (FIS) Host Program Newsletter

Fall 2015 - A Note from ISSS; Important Dates; Upcoming Events; FIS Story Corner

A Note from ISSS

Greetings from ISSS! Believe it or not, the fall semester is in full swing and the ISSS team has been very busy helping our international students settle into this vibrant place we all call home. Many wonderful families in Middlebury and the surrounding communities eagerly awaited their arrival to welcome them into their lives.



On Saturday, October 3, ISSS held its annual matching event for the Friends of International Student (FIS) Host Program in Bicentennial Hall. The event kicked off the 15th year of the FIS program and the end of an involved matching process that began last spring. In total, 43 students and 33 host families met each other for the first time (either during the event or shortly thereafter) in a manner much like a large “blind date.”

Overall, more than a hundred participants took their first steps toward what we hope will blossom into life-long friendships. We had great variety among students and host families— the students were a combination of first years, exchange students and some upperclassmen, while the group of hosts consisted of community members, parents of students, Middlebury alumni, as well as current and former employees of the College.



*We want to thank everyone involved – students, hosts and volunteers –
for making this a truly memorable event.*

February Student Hosts

A few international students who have requested to be matched with hosts will arrive in February 2016. If you or someone you know would be interested in hosting one of these students, please contact the ISSS office at iss@middlebury.edu or at (802) 443-5858.

Important Dates

Thanksgiving Break – Thanksgiving recess begins on Tuesday, November 24, at 4:15 p.m. and runs through Sunday, November 29. Some students will leave campus. Due to the brevity of the break, many students choose to stay on campus during this time. If they choose to remain here, they must register through Self-Service Banner (our student information system) to have access to their residence hall. We have found that it is a great time for host students and their families to connect. The students who remain on campus will be allowed to stay in their rooms, although Dining Services will be closed for the break. The last meal served in the dining halls will be breakfast on Wednesday, November 25, in Proctor Dining. Dining Services will serve a Thanksgiving Meal on Thursday, November 26, in Atwater Dining Hall from 12-2 p.m. This meal is **free** for students staying on campus and faculty and staff who are working that day. For other College guests, faculty and staff, tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 per person from the Box Office in the McCullough Student Center or at: <http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/>. (Ticket sales will end on Monday, November 23.) The first meal after the break will be dinner on Sunday, November 29, in Ross and Proctor Dining Halls. Then, Atwater Dining Hall will re-open for breakfast and classes will resume on Monday, November 30.



Final Exams – The final exam period begins on Tuesday, December 15, and ends on Sunday, December 20. Students have varying exam schedules, including take-home exams and term papers depending on their courses. Exams may be scheduled during the day or the evening. The exam period is always a hectic and stressful time so you may want to ask your student about his or her exam schedule. A care package, a message of encouragement, or even a coffee or tea break with you is much appreciated and can help alleviate stress and lift your student's spirits!

Winter Break – This year the winter break begins on Monday, December 21, and runs through Sunday, January 10. We expect most students to leave campus for the 3-week vacation. The College officially closes for the break period with almost all College offices being closed during that time. Students who do not have an alternative option may request permission to stay on campus from their Commons Dean by November 18. (Students may request permission to stay for all or part of the break.) Only those who are approved are allowed to remain on campus. Some first-year students may be worried about what they will do during the break. It may be worth having a conversation with them about their plans to help brainstorm ideas and/or to encourage them to request permission to stay, if necessary.

The winter break is a very quiet, and sometimes lonely, time for students who remain on campus. You can check in with your student to see if they will be around and would like to spend time with you. Some students have expressed a keen interest in sharing a meal over the holidays with their host families.

Dining services will be closed after breakfast on Monday, December 21, and will re-open for brunch on Sunday, January 10. Students staying on campus during break will have access to kitchens, but must provide their own food. If you are able, consider inviting your student to join you on your next trip to the grocery store and/or offer to share any of your family's favorite recipes.

Many students may be seeking rides to and from the airport. Providing transportation for your student is completely voluntary so please do not feel obligated to do so. The Student Government Association (SGA) is providing discounted bus services to and from the airport in Burlington (\$15 each way) and to some of the major metropolitan areas, which students can purchase through the College Box Office or at: <http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/>. You could also direct your student to the following link for alternate transportation options: <http://www.middlebury.edu/sustainability/transportation>.

January Term—Residence Halls open at 9 a.m. on Saturday, January 9. Winter Term classes run from Monday, January 11 until Friday, February 5. Students take one course during the winter term, so if your schedule allows, this is another great time to connect with your student for fun in the snow or some hot cocoa and a movie or board game.

Upcoming Events

ISO Cultural Show: Saturday, November 21 – Save the date for this celebration of all cultures! The International Students' Organization (ISO) Cultural Show is one of the most anticipated shows of the year, featuring singing, dancing, poetry and more. There will be a family-friendly showcase from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and a complete show from 8:00-10:30 p.m. on the stage of McCullough Wilson Hall. Tickets are on sale now at the Middlebury College Box Office in McCullough Student Center, on their website at: <http://boxoffice.middlebury.edu/>, or by phone at (802) 443-6433.

November 17 - 21: International Education week – Please read more about the Department of State program at: <http://iew.state.gov/index.cfm>.

As usual, the College always has something lined up that might be of interest to a member of the FIS community. Find out what is happening at the College by clicking on the following links:

- **The College Calendar:** <http://www.middlebury.edu/events>
- **The Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs:** <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/rcga/events>

FIS Story Corner

The FIS Story Corner is a chance to share the adventures you have with your students in words and/or pictures and articles that would be of interest to the FIS Community. Please send your submissions to us at: iss@middlebury.edu so we can proudly share them here!

One of our hosts, Wendy Goodwin, sent us a link to a TED talk entitled, “Don’t ask where I’m from, ask where I’m a local”. You can find it at:

http://www.ted.com/talks/taiye_selasi_don_t_ask_where_i_m_from_ask_where_i_m_a_local.

And here are more pictures from our October 3 Matching Event at Bicentennial Hall. Enjoy!





As always, our sincere thanks for welcoming our international students into your lives.

Warm wishes to you and your family over the upcoming holiday season.



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